

Engineering Heritage Australia Bulletin: #19

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Notice of Intention to consider listing on the State Heritage Register - Fitz Roy Iron Works Archaeological Site (197 Old Hume Highway, Mittagong)

The Heritage Council of NSW resolved, at its meeting on 5 April 2022, to give notice of its intention to consider listing the **Fitz Roy Iron Work Archaeological Site** on the State Heritage Register (SHR) in acknowledgement of its heritage significance to the people of New South Wales. This advice is in accordance with section 33(1)(a) of the *Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)*.

Any members of the community, owners, managers, organisations or other interested parties are invited to make a written submission regarding the proposed listing and significance of the **Fitz Roy Iron Works Archaeological Site**. Submissions should be posted or emailed to the Heritage Council of NSW at the following address during the public submission period commencing on **13 April 2022** and closing on **11 May 2022**:

Heritage Council of NSW
Locked Bag 5020
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124
heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

Please note that the Heritage Council is unable to accept submissions received after the above closing date.

The Fitz Roy Iron Works Archaeological Site may be of state heritage significance for its historical, associative, research, rarity, and representative values. It was the first site in NSW where iron was smelted from native ores and processed for commercial purposes. It was a pioneering site in Australia in this regard. Consequently, the extensive archaeological remains at the site demonstrate the earliest phase of the development of a viable iron and steel industry in Australia. This site's ability to illustrate this historical development is enhanced through its potential association with two pioneering figures of Australia's iron and steel industry: Enoch Hughes and William Sandford (1841-1932).

The iron works may have research value as the only known physical remains of a nineteenth century iron processing facility in Australia. As such, the site may be a rare and representative benchmark site that can demonstrate the steps and processes involved in nineteenth century iron making.

The Fitz Roy Iron Works Archaeological Site was uncovered during archaeological investigations in 2005. A large portion of the remains discovered at this time were retained in situ and conserved and interpreted as part of the development of the Highlands Marketplace. They are representative of the nature and extent of the site and provide a tangible link to the history and development of this pioneering enterprise.

A copy of the draft curtilage map for this item is enclosed for your reference. Further details on the nominated item, the State Heritage Register, listing criteria, making a submission and the benefits of listing can be viewed on the [Heritage NSW website](#).

If you have any questions, require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Damian Tybussek, Senior Heritage Officer (South) at Heritage NSW on 0488 188 527 or Damian.Tybussek@environment.nsw.gov.au.

(From Frank Johnson)

Sydney Opera House awarded world's highest civil engineering recognition

The Sydney Opera House joins other leading historic landmarks after being awarded the world's highest civil engineering recognition.

Already the recipient of several awards, the Sydney Opera House has just been accorded two more – one by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) as well as an engineering heritage international marker from Engineers Australia.

For more information please refer to *Create* Magazine article:

https://createdigital.org.au/sydney-opera-house-recognised-for-its-brilliant-engineering/?j=5668399&e=fshawash@yahoo.com&l=114395_HTML&u=135965354&mid=7001827&jb=2&utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EngineeringNews

and to the Sydney Morning Herald article:

<https://www.smh.com.au/culture/art-and-design/officially-a-landmark-sydney-opera-house-recognised-for-engineering-genius-20220404-p5aaob.html>

A presentation ceremony was held on Wednesday 6 April 2022 in Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House to acknowledge the engineering profession's significant contribution to the creation of the Opera House.

In his speech, EA Sydney Division President, Don Moloney, noted the following significant engineering achievements in the Sydney Opera House:

- was the first computer-designed building of significant scale; it could not have been built without the use of computers;
- it involved the first example of factory manufacture and erection of large precast concrete units of complex geometry;
- it involved the earliest example in the world of epoxy jointing of matched concrete segments;
- it was the first large-scale use of laminated glass walls and roofs; and
- it used an erection arch for construction of the roofs that was the most complex piece of scaffolding used in the construction industry in Australia.

The ceremony, hosted by the Sydney Opera House, was chaired by its CEO, Louise Herron, and attended by a wide range of people associated with engineering, heritage and the Opera House. EHS managed to track down Nigel Nutt, a son of the designer, Sir John Nutt, and he represented the Nutt family.

The ceremony attracted a good deal of attention, including a mention on the front page of the Sydney Morning Herald, and an article in the paper. Frank Johnson, Chair of EHS, had two interviews on ABC radio, so one can judge the interest from the top end of the media in Australia.

In addition, three posts were made on LinkedIn, with the following reactions over the past two weeks:

- Sydney Division President, Don Moloney: 48 likes, 9 comments and 1 share
- Engineers Australia: 198 likes, 9 comments and 2 shares.
- Committee of Sydney: 835 likes, 17 comments and 14 shares

All up a total of **1,133** responses, which shows the widespread interest in engineering heritage. We just need to find ways to publicise other engineering heritage achievements.

Also of note was that the awards from EA and ASCE were not the traditional pieces of bronze but rather digital plaques – a first for both organisations. Digital is the way of the present and future, and is something that EHA is looking to make greater use of.

Frank Johnson, William Phippen, and Michael Clarke from EHS were acknowledged for their efforts and contributions, with special thanks to Michael Clarke for his work in preparing the EHA and ASCE submissions.

(From Firas Shawash and Frank Johnson)

NSW Blue Plaques program - The first 17 Blue Plaque recipients announced

Minister for Heritage James Griffin said the NSW Blue Plaques program is similar to the program in the United Kingdom, and provides an opportunity to celebrate the noteworthy people and stories that helped to shape the state.

"It's incredibly exciting to see so many diverse stories from around the state come to light through the Blue Plaques program," Mr Griffin said.

"This initiative is all about recognising the eclectic characters, personalities and important public figures that have made or become part of the history and fabric of our state".

"These 17 people, moments or stories that I'm announcing today were all nominated by their local communities".

"Remarkable stories have been uncovered, like that of Bessie Robinson, who advocated for quality public education in her community while building the foundations of the town of Canowindra. You can still see her work in the town today." Other successful nominations include aviator Nancy Bird Walton, artist Brett Whiteley, performers, authors and history makers from around the state".

The initiative is part of a \$5 million heritage program, funded by the NSW Government. The NSW public will be invited to nominate additional noteworthy people, stories and events later this year. These 17 Blue Plaques will be installed at sites during the second half of 2022.

For more information, visit the Blue Plaques page

(<https://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/celebrate/love-your-local-heritage/blue-plaques-nsw/>)

(From Firas Shawash per favour of Heritage NSW website)

Contributions needed

Readers are invited to share news, bright ideas, issues of concern, advice about online talks – anything that would be of interest and helpful to others, by sending them to editor Firas Shawash at fshawash@yahoo.com for inclusion in the next Bulletin - more Australia-wide content would be appreciated.

This Engineering Heritage Australia Bulletin is published by Engineers Australia's National Committee for Engineering Heritage. Statements made or opinions expressed in the Bulletin are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Engineers Australia.